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Pelham NEWS

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inside

FEEDING A COMMUNITY NEED

As three art studios host open houses this weekend, preparations continue for next weekend's Pelham Food Drive.

Started in 1991, the drive that feeds the food bank at Pelham Cares has always been run entirely by volunteers. Over the years hundreds of tonnes of food have been collected.

See story page 2

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JORDAN NUNZIATO For PelhamNEWS

Fonthill's 11-year-old Grace Lowes has a starring role in Gypsy Theatre's production of a C.S. Lewis classic tale.

THEATRE: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Actor, 11, escapes to Narnia

JORDAN NUNZIATA
For PelhamNEWS

Even the most astounding talent can come in the smallest package. Grace Lowes proves that.

The 11-year-old from Fonthill is playing a lead role in Gypsy Theatre's Niagara Falls production of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.*

She already seems to be a natural. An actor since age seven, Grace is known for captivating audiences with flawless performances driven by a passion for acting.

"When the performances start, when I get on stage and feel the audience, my adrenaline starts pumping. It's fun," she says.

Grace plays Lucy in *The Chronicles of Narnia.* She is particularly excited about taking on this role because she says she can relate to the character.

"Sometimes she's super nice and other times she's yelling at her brothers and sister," she says. "She has mood swings, which is really fun to act out."

Grace describes what helped her find the passion "When I was much younger, I really liked to sing, and in Grade 3, I did public speaking," she says.

See **NARNIA** | Page 6

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■ **STUDIO TOURS:** Colourful weekend in store

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Artists Beverly Sneath and Pat Haftar toast an open house of three art studios this weekend in Pelham and Welland.

Another perspective from which to view art

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

As an early Christmas treat, artists are inviting you into three studios for cookies, coffee and a look behind the scenes Saturday and Sunday.

"It gives you a chance to meet people and let them see what you do," says Pat Haftar who has her studio in her Welland home at 106 Gretal Pl.

Artists usually meet people by appointment; this is an opportunity to anyone to drop in. Haftar says it's a nice break for the artists who tend to work in isolation in their homes.

Bev Sneath, who has held open houses for years, says the event gives the artist a chance to display the variety of work they do. For example, she decorates glasses as well as paints.

"You have some regulars drop in, so it gives you a chance to reconnect," she says.

Sometimes it leads to commissions for later work.

At two of the three studios, the resident artist will have a guest artist or two showing their work.

Potter Sonja Zanuttini will feature painter Diane Vogel and Amy Hiltebrand, who makes jewelry and scarves. Zanuttini's studio is at 8 Merritt Rd., Fonthill

Sneath will show paintings, prints, cards, sculpture, silk scarves and hand painted wine glasses at her studio.

Lenka Kamenicky will demonstrate another form of art with mini Reiki treatments, along with angel and tarot card readings.

Sneath's studio is at 1341 Effingham St. near Canboro Rd. in Ridgeville. Fine artist Haftar will have acrylics, watercolour, cards and prints at her studio in north Welland. It's east of the corner of Niagara St. and Quaker Rd. — follow the signs.

All three galleries will be open both days 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

■ **CITIZENS OF PELHAM FOOD DRIVE:** Get your non-perishable food items ready for next Saturday

Beautiful journey

GERRY BERKHOUT
For Pelham News

Supplied photo

Pelham Food Drive of yesteryear: Shown from left, Robb Neill, Richard Brown, Gord Klager and Gerry Berkhout.

The Pelham Food Drive began in 1991 and was sponsored then, by the Fonthill and Fenwick Lions Clubs.

I looked after the east end of town and Richard Brown looked after the west end, with drop-off centres to include the outlying areas.

As the years went by, every service club in town became involved and the name changed to Citizens of Pelham Food Drive.

It has always been 100% run by volunteers, with many citizens who have been involved right from the beginning.

Over the years hundreds of tonnes of food have been collected with no additional cost to our citizens. Donations from each service club in Pelham each year pay for flyers and portable signs.

The food drive has always run out of the Lions' Hall in both Fenwick and Fonthill. For years the Fenwick end was expertly taken care of by Lions member Tony Finamore. Lion Ken Angle has willingly taken over that lead role in the past few years.

About 15 years ago, a minister from the Salvation Army dropped by to thank us for all the donations. I remember him saying to Dawn Butler and myself: "You make such a wonderful couple.".

So from that year on, she has been my "Food drive wife." She is a very faithful supporter and looks after the clerical details each year.

When I was a member of town council, it was easy to get councillors involved. My good friends Sandee Matthews and Rick Hatt are still very much a part of the food drive today and have been wonderful friends and co-workers. About 10 years ago Rick took on the responsibility of canvassing North Pelham door-to-door with a group of volunteers and so North Pelham became part of the door-to-door food drive.

My "brother" Glen Robins is always part of the organizing committee, my family, my wife Gwenn and our children and grandchildren, always show up to help. Seven years ago, my daughter Carol was very much pregnant and yet still volunteered that first Saturday in December. By Sunday she was in the hospital and our granddaughter Krystyna was born. So we now have a "Food Drive Baby" who also comes out to help every year.

Then there is the Kinsmen Club. These men are fantastic year after year. I am so proud of that group. And our army cadets, I am so proud of these young people. So many wonderful, wonderful people have been involved over the years, so many students, church groups, boy scouts, girl guides. It has been a beautiful journey.

From the beginning, the Blue Star Restaurant in Welland has provided us with a large pail of delicious soup, as does Keith's Restaurant in Fonthill. More recently an additional pot of yummy chicken soup has been made each year as well by dear friend Al Crowe. We have always provided this hot soup, coffee and doughnuts to our volunteers thanks to the generous donations of Tim Hortons Fonthill, Klagers, Sobeys and the Avendale stores. As well, Rick Lowes from Country Corner Deli provides the volunteers with a sausage on a bun and pop on their way home.

Many businesses each year volunteer to be drop off places for the outlying areas and for any house that might have been missed. Much appreciation goes out to C21 Today, Clares Motorcycle, Avondale in North Pelham, Einsteins in Fenwick and Fonthill, Star Tile and Meridian Credit Union.

The Town of Pelham gives me 100% co-operation and always sends out a team with trucks to complete a route. Each year food collected is sent to Pelham Cares to be sorted.

We also give to the Hope Centre, Open Arms Mission and the Salvation Army. We make sure the needs of Pelham Cares are met first, but we are very aware of the need for food in Welland as well.

This is indeed a citizens of Pelham food drive. It has been a very important part of my life.

We live in an amazing town where the on the first Saturday in December everyone clearly lives by our motto: "Do something for someone less fortunate than yourself."

If you want to be involved this year please call Gerry Berkhout at 905-892-6988 or e-mail brekley@cogeco.ca.

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SHALLOTS: Pelham Farmers' Market vendor earns accolades at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The onion's lost cousin

TIFFANY MAYER
Sun Media

They're like the forgotten cousin of onions and garlic.

But William Van Vliet has rooted out some success growing shallots in Niagara.

The Thoroldite, who grows shallots on a small swath in Niagara Falls, earned accolades recently at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for his onion-like crop.

The only person showing shallots at the Olympics of agriculture, Van Vliet snagged fourth out of nine entries in the "other vegetable" category, attesting to the shallot's status as the unsung among aromatic veggies.

It's a status Van Vliet has been spending the past several years trying to change.

"A lot of people watch cooking shows. They always say shallots, cut up. But they haven't been readily available. You just can't get them," Van Vliet said.

To get them locally is even more of a coup.

Van Vliet grows red and yellow shallots, which sprout in bunches or clusters, like garlic, on one hectare of land he rents from Walker Industries on the border of Thorold and Niagara Falls.

The 64-year-old considers it finally making use of the horticulture degree he earned in university, but didn't use until he was "downsized" out of a job at the Abitibi plant in Thorold seven years ago.

His daughter, Sandra, was working on her agriculture degree at the time in British Columbia when she returned home and struck up a partnership with her dad, running two market gardens that produced vegetables they would sell at local farmers' markets.

To start, Van Vliet decided to devote his small plot to tomatoes, Spanish onions and garlic.

"There are not too many local farmers able to grow onions like Spanish onions," Van Vliet said. "I've heard lots say we tried but were never successful. I tried and was successful."

Van Vliet soon added leeks and shallots to his repertoire to meet customer demand, he said.

He is certain he's the only grower in the region whose harvests are more often associated with the root vegetable-plentiful Holland Marsh north of Toronto than the buckle of the fruit belt that is Niagara.

The Holland Marsh also provides his biggest source of competition at the Royal, where Van Vliet shows all his pungent crops and this year placed in the top five for all categories entered.

It's no easy feat, he said. The clay loam he grows on tends to blemish the delicate, papery skins of his shallots and garlic, which is a detractor for judges, who also look uniformity of size when choosing a grand champion clove.

"Initially, four years ago, I thought I could go to farmers' markets and show my ribbons as a quality grower. That would help me," Van Vliet said.

He also had a 1.4-kilogram Spanish onion entered in the giant vegetable contest. It lost to one that was 1.8 kg.

"You can't really compete with the Bradford Marsh people. They've got good soil with big acreage," Van Vliet said.

Still, Van Vliet has developed quite the local following among shallot fans and the curious, who might wonder if the entrepreneurial grower may just be on to Niagara's next big crop.

"I get a lot of farmers looking at what I have at farmers' markets. You know, they're spying," Van Vliet said with a laugh.

"In time, there might be a number of farmers selling shallots."

BOB TYMCZYSZYN Sun Media

William Van Vliet with some of the shallots he has left from this year's harvest. Van Vliet recently won at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for his crop. Van Vliet sells his shallots and onions at Pelham Farmers' Market.

PelhamNEWS

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comment

■perspective

Feed the need

The need to feed food banks was made more evident by last week's release of the Hunger-Count survey.

It shows in this tough economic time a 17.6% jump in the number of Canadians relying on food hampers.

It also showed meals provided by soup kitchens, school breakfast programs and drop-in centres are up 39% from two years ago.

Nearly 800,000 people visited food banks this past March — 120,000 more than a year earlier.

That's the largest one-year jump on record, and 72,000 of the clients were first-timers.

And it gets worse.

Feeding these people is growing more difficult.

One-third of the 670 food banks across Canada have reported problems keeping up with demand or having to turn people away.

It is critical that community-wide food drives, such as the one in Pelham on Dec. 5.

They generate tonnes of food each year, but soon after the winter holidays supplies of staples will be running low once again.

For some families, including those with two incomes, a decision must be made to pay bills or buy food.

See **PERSPECTIVE** | Page 5

■ **TORTURE DEBATE:** Colvin's chill factor

Government threats scare witnesses

Greg Weston
OTTAWA

While Conservative goons are busy smearing the whistle-blowing diplomat who touched off the Afghan torture fiasco, federal lawyers have apparently gagged, intimidated and otherwise convinced dozens of other key officials to keep quiet.

For the past 18 months, Stephen Harper's government has tied the quasi-judicial Military Police Complaints Commission in legal knots to thwart public hearings into allegations that prisoners captured by Canadian forces were subsequently tortured at the hands of Afghan authorities.

This summer, the commission already was adjourned and going nowhere when federal lawyers threw a chill into potential witnesses.

On July 28, the federal justice department wrote to 28 high-ranking government and military officials with knowledge of the Afghan detainee file, warning that their testimony could damage their reputations and potentially put their colleagues' careers at risk.

The letter "strongly" recommended they all retain the justice department as their legal counsel.

Not surprisingly, most heeded the pointed advice — after all, it was coming from their employer.

In fact, only one person retained his own counsel and agreed to co-operate with the commission.

That was diplomatic whistle-blower Richard Colvin, formerly acting ambassador in Afghanistan, and now deputy chief of intelligence at the Canadian embassy in Washington.

> **"Among other things, Bokenfohr's rocket reveals relevant parts of the justice department missive which, of course, the government refuses to make public.**

Last month, Colvin's lawyer, Calgary-based solicitor Lori Bokenfohr, wrote a blistering letter to the justice department, complaining the government was systematically, if not unethically, trying to subject potential witnesses to a "chill effect."

Among other things, Bokenfohr's rocket reveals relevant parts of the justice department missive which, of course, the government refuses to make public.

Bokenfohr noted potential witnesses were not being called to testify at public hearings, just voluntary preliminary interviews with counsel for the complaints commission.

Yet, according to the justice department letter to witnesses, "government servants might face accusations of lying during public hearings, face greater risk to reputation, and carry the potential moral burden of unwittingly exposing military and other colleagues and peers to disciplinary penalties."

Bokenfohr said under the bold heading on the letter, "What is at stake for you," federal lawyers warned "government servants must appear before the commission in public, and that 'the commission is actively seeking to publicize the hearings and report.'"

The feds further cautioned "military police are at especially high risk of reputational damage, that they could be directly criticized by the commission."

Finally, Bokenfohr notes the justice department letter warns prospective witnesses that "military commanders could become the 'collateral casualties' of the hearing, and 'the legality of their decision to transfer Afghan detainees will be the battleground on which the allegation of failure to investigate (alleged abuse of prisoners) will be fought.' "

The day before Colvin was scheduled to meet with counsel for the complaints commission, the justice department declared all information in his possession to be a matter of national security, and warned him sharing anything with anyone could get him arrested.

The government, having advised all witnesses to retain legal counsel, is now refusing to pay Colvin's bills.

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Supporting hardworking Canadians

Many hard-working Canadians have paid into Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program for decades and never taken advantage of its benefits.

When they lose their jobs due to the economic downturn and through no fault of their own the current global recession hits these long-tenured individuals the hardest.

Dean Allison
MP'S VIEW

I am pleased to report that on Nov. 5, Bill C-50 received Royal Assent and became law. Depending on how long an eligible individual has been working and paying into the Employment Insurance program this bill can provide five to 20 weeks of additional EI benefits.

These measures will help Canadian workers who have paid into the EI system for years by providing the support they need while searching for new employment.

This temporary measure, which builds on those introduced in our government's economic action plan, will be phased out gradually in the future as Canada's economy improves.

I was very pleased to see the NDP put partisan politics aside and vote favourably to pass this legislation. However, I was also disappointed to see the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois vote against these measures, without providing any meaningful alternatives.

The NDP have in fact indicated that they will be continuing to support our government so long as we continue to deliver on our commitments to improve the EI program.

Our next piece of EI legislation will be Bill C-56; the Fairness for the Self-Employed Act.

This additional new legislation proposes to extend to self-employed Canadians the opportunity to access all EI special benefits including maternity and parental benefits, sickness benefits, and compassionate care benefits should they choose to pay into the program.

Should this proposed legislation pass, approximately 2.6 million self-employed Canadians who have long asked for the option to participate in the EI program will now have peace of mind knowing that they can access special benefits to cope with their major life events.

See **ALLISON** | Page 5

■ PERSPECTIVE

Food banks under pressure

FROM PAGE 4

A report prepared by the Ontario Association of Food Banks, In the Midst of the Storm: The Impact of the Economic Downturn for Ontario's Food Banks in 2009, released last month, shows Ontario's food banks are under pressure due to growing unemployment, continually increasing food prices and rising demand. They have been forced to purchase more food, and in some cases ration the available supply of donations.

We can do our part by volunteering and picking up a few extra items at the grocery store each week and setting them aside for Pelham Cares, Open Arms Mission and Salvation Army.

The collective efforts of many can make a world of difference for our neighbours.

— Greg Furminger
gfurminger@wellandtribune.ca

■ ALLISON

Needs monitored as economy recovers

FROM PAGE 4

These self-employed Canadians include many of my own constituents in Niagara West-Glanbrook; small business owners, farmers, construction workers, professionals, and those who own a home business, among many others.

We will continue to monitor and support the needs of our citizens as Canada's economy shows its first tenuous signs of recovery.

Dean Allison is the Conservative MP for Niagara West-Glanbrook.

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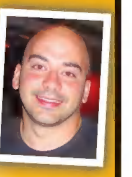

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ROADWORK CONCERNS BIZ

Local business owners discussed working together to ensure minimal interruption during the future reconstruction of Pelham St., at the recent Pelham Business Association's Network Marketing Mania meeting at Keith's Restaurant.

During the meeting, a draft of Pelham's community improvement plan was presented for discussion, said Gary Accursi, the association's director of community affairs.

Accursi declined to share details of the draft with *PelhamNEWS*, pending Pelham council's review of the document in early January.

Accursi said another public meeting will be held sometime in December — date still to be announced — to discuss the draft.

The Marketing Mania meeting was meant to "bring the business community up-to-date with where we are in the process," he said.

Accursi said a public meeting regarding the construction on Pelham St. will be held Nov. 24 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in town council chambers.

GOT AN IDEA?

pelhamnews@wellandtribune.ca

■ NARNIA

Grace has graced the stage many times

FROM PAGE 1

"After that, I really started looking for this (acting) — kept my eye out."

After finding her calling, she has acted in several Gypsy Theatre productions, including *Oliver*, *Cats*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Suessical the Musical*.

"I've played a cat," she says, laughing. "I've played a boy in *Oliver*, Fern in *Charlotte's Web* and a kangaroo in *Suessical the Musical*."

Her most challenging role to date, she says, was in *Cats*.

"That was one of my first plays. It was really hard getting into character — just the fact that I had to play a cat," she says.

"We had to pretend we were sleeping and to do many things that were difficult."

Grace loves acting because it enables her to work with others who share her passion for the craft.

"I can relate to the other actors and actresses. We all love doing the same thing," she says.

Given her talent, it may not be surprising that she has already received various awards. Locally, Lowes has won the Pelham's Got Talent contest.

Besides Grace, the play features locals such as Charles Domenic of Welland — who plays the Ice Queen's henchman — and members of the ensemble including Ellyn Petrushko, Brynn Hall and Stephanie Noel.

Last Thursday not only marked the opening of *The Chronicles of Narnia* — which runs until Dec. 20 — but also the opening of Queen Street Theatre in Niagara Falls.

Tickets for this production, which is based on the popular fantasy series by C. S. Lewis, are $30.

WHAT: Gypsy Theatre's production of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

WHERE: Queen Street Theatre, 4624 Queen St., Niagara Falls

WHEN: Runs to Dec. 20

TICKETS: $30

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■ COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Member's standing at risk

PelhamNEWS Staff

A member of the town's committee of adjustment may lose his seat for not signing a statement certifying compliance with accessible customer service training.

The committee of adjustment, which includes chair Brian DiMartile, vice-chair Mel Dove and members Wayne Lockey, Richard Rybiak and Joe Mollica, met on Nov. 3 Each member was provided with a copy of the compliance manual for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and a memorandum from the clerk regarding compliance requirements.

Members of the group that deals with minor zoning variances and land severances were asked to read the manual and sign an agreement of compliance prior to Nov. 30. Council has adopted the use of the manual and it was approved by the joint accessibility advisory committee.

All members we advised that reading and signing off is mandatory, however, Mollica advised the committee he would not sign the form, citing personal reasons. He was informed that it could mean his membership would be revoked but still reinforced his decision not to sign.

At last week's town council meeting, Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook brought the matter to the table and asked again if in fact the member would be removed from his seat and replaced for not complying as Pelham fully supports the initiative.

Planning services director Craig Larmour informed council that Mollica had been informed that his membership may be revoked. Council would have to decide to remove him from his position and have another representative appointed to the committee of adjustment.

When contacted for comment, Mollica said he informed the committee of his reasoning and deferred speaking on the issue until he is officially notified from the township of his removal from the committee.

He has been involved with the committee of adjustment for three years.

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Did you know that by the time we turn 45 years old, almost half of us - well over 40% - will suffer the aches and pains of at least one joint problem caused by aging, injury, overuse or arthritis?

And if you're already feeling the pain, you know what I mean. Joint stiffness often limits your mobility and makes it difficult to perform many daily functions - because it's too painful. Yet, in spite of the pain and the problems caused by aching joints, many people are reluctant to take prescription drugs because of the well-documented risk of side effects.

Joint pain and arthritis is the number one cause of disability and it affects millions of people. According to medical researchers, each year arthritis results in over 750,000 hospitalizations and over 36 million doctor visits in North America!

Now as the weather gets colder, can you feel the stiffness and the pain in your joints? Do you feel that nagging pain in your back, hips or knees or that stiffness in the morning? It may very well be the result of the one of the many common types of arthritis.

Surprisingly, nearly two-thirds of people with arthritis are younger than 65 years of age. It is quite apparent that arthritis is not just an ailment exclusive to us older folks.

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63892905

BUSINESS: Fonthill's Wildflower Market Restaurant in the running for established enterprise honour

Contenders announced for Niagara's entrepreneur of the year awards

Sun Media

Nominations for the 16th annual awards were announced at a breakfast last week at Club Roma in St. Catharines.

Stan Pride, chair of the awards organizing committee, said the quality of nominees is high.

Pride said the list presents "a nice blend of older and newer companies."

"When you get companies like Beatties (which has been around since 1860) and a couple of the young high-tech companies ... it covers a great area."

The awards were started in 1994 to recognize the achievements of Niagara's entrepreneurs. They are supported by a volunteer committee from Niagara's corporate, education and economic development sectors.

The 2009 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards gala will be held Feb. 26 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls.

For tickets, call 905-688-5757 or order at www.niagaraentrepreneur.com.

2009 Nominees

Agriculture Enterprise: Friends of Nature — Niagara-on-the Lake; Gemmrich W. Nursery Inc. — Niagara -on-the-Lake; Lakeview Vineyard Equipment Inc. —Niagara-on-the-Lake; Reif Estate Winery — Niagara-on-the-Lake

Emerging Entrepreneur: About Thyme Bistro — Lincoln; Cerebral Vortex Games — Thorold; Gypsy Alley — Thorold; Finesse Interior Design and Home Decor — St. Catharines; Gemcraft Screen Products Inc. — Niagara-on-the-Lake

Established Enterprise: Aero-Safe Technologies Inc. — Fort Erie; Hy-Grade Precast Concrete Ltd. — St. Catharines; JBM Office Systems Ltd. — St. Catharines; Napoli Ristorante and Pizzeria — Niagara Falls; Professional Carpet Systems — St. Catharines; Signature Signs—Niagara Falls; Wildflower Market Restaurant— Pelham

Family Enterprise: Beatties Basics Office Products — St. Catharines; E. D. Products Ltd. — St. Catharines; Morse & Son Ltd. —Niagara Falls

Innovative Small Business: Niagara Academy of Sports — Lincoln; Niagara Electronics Inc. and Niagara Onsite Ltd. — Niagara Falls; Robinson Mediation Services Inc. — St. Catharines; Scordino Design — Niagara Falls; Shop Niagara — Fort Erie

Technological Innovation: Nitec Energy Services Inc. — Niagara Falls; North America Traffic Inc. — Port Colborne; Raw Materials Co. — Port Colborne

Tourism Enterprise: Holiday Inn Fort Erie/ Niagara Convention Centre; Treadwell Farm to Table Cuisine — St. Catharines; Zooma Zooma Cafe and Wine Bar — Lincoln

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Q. Are there any other benefits from choosing a BPS denture?

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Improving quality of life

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse
REAL ESTATE VIEW

As local realtors, our work contributes dramatically to the quality of life in Niagara.

We sell much more than homes. We sell the livability of our communities and as local citizens we participate in a variety of initiatives that support economic growth and sustainability.

In order to highlight the full scope of the community development impact of the real estate industry, the Ontario Real Estate Association has recently launched a Quality of Life member information guide. This guide essentially formalizes five working principles that have always been an inherent (and admittedly often intangible) impetus for the business approach of professional realtors.

The five components of the Quality of Life philosophy include: ensuring economic vitality; providing housing opportunities; preserving our environment; protecting the rights of property owners and building better communities.

It goes without saying that a healthy housing industry is a fundamental component of a strong economy. A vibrant real estate market creates jobs, expands the tax base and revitalizes communities.

Helping people to realize the dream of home ownership is an exhilarating feeling that never fails to thrill even the most seasoned home-selling veteran. Real estate agents also clearly recognize that the environment — clean air and water, parks and open space are all essential elements to a livable, desirable and saleable community.

Protecting property rights is a critical part of the role of a real estate professional as we are continually on the front line of assisting to resolve ownership issues and preserving the investment people have made in their homes.

Real estate agents are also active participants in a huge variety of community organizations that help make our communities a better place to live. We contribute our time and resources to ensure that our communities continue to offer important "livability" features such as affordable housing choices, employment opportunities, vibrant commercial sectors, good schools, safe neighbourhoods, quality public services, ample recreation opportunities and efficient infrastructure.

The Ontario Real Estate Association Quality of Life campaign provides a formalized opportunity for realtors to do a better job of articulating the collective impact of our individual contributions to Niagara.

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WATER CHARGES: Common Niagara rate structure floated

Council gives OK on feasibility study

PelhamNEWS Staff

Town council will support entering into a feasibility study to review a common rate structure for Niagara's water and wastewater systems if the region picks up the tab.

A draft memorandum of understanding was presented to the township as one of the feasibility partners, however, there was some concern from Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook that if this project were to exceed the $50,000 upset limit that the remaining costs would then have to be covered by the project partners.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said he understood the feasibility study isn't anticipated to cost more than $50,000 which is being paid for by the region.

Town treasurer Cari Pupo said in discussions with regional staff, that point about how it would be funded did come up. She suggested the town recommend the region change the clause to state the costs would be borne by the region.

The study, said Pupo, will provide the township with information to help it determine a rate. The town is not obligated to adopt the rate that would be recommended in this review by consultants.

The resolution will be forwarded to the region and the memorandum will come back to council in its final form before politicians discuss or vote on a bylaw.

"Until we have a final document with the amendment, a bylaw will not move forward," said town clerk Cheryl Miclette.

While the bylaw was anticipated to come back to council by Nov. 30, it may not be back for discussion until December, she said.

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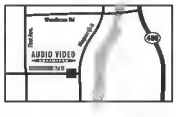

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■ **JUSTICE:** It's everybody's business

Campaign aimed at family violence

MAGGIE RIOPELLE
PelhamNEWS Staff

The goal is to put family violence in the spotlight — to get people to take action and help people in need.

At last week's town council meeting, regional Coun. Brian Baty made a presentation on the Stop Family Violence — It's Everybody's Business campaign.

In a four-minute video presentation, council was provided with some starling facts:

• In Niagara, 183 women were turned away from women's shelters in 2008 because there was no room for them;

• The number of children left motherless because of domestic violence resulting in death — four;

• Some 10% of the Niagara Regional Police budget is spent on dealing with family violence.

• It costs more than $3 million a year to operate three Niagara shelters for women and children who have experienced abuse;

• The estimated social services costs related to family violence in Niagara is in excess of $5 million a year.

"The United Way supports those three facilities," said Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp, executive director of the United Way, adding that the shelters anticipate "an increase in caseloads particularly in light of current economic conditions."

In April 2005, Women's Place of South Niagara and the NRP hosted a leadership summit on family violence to provide 200 business, political, community and education leaders with information on the effects of family violence. Following that summit, a regional task force was developed with a goal to increase awareness in the workplace. This work, said Baty, started well before the province introduced Bill 168 — an act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to violence and harassment in the workplace.

Brian Baty

Peter Papp

The Stop Family Violence campaign provides workplaces with a 15-minute presentation about the impact of family violence in the workplace. There are resources to provide workplaces with further policy and procedures, information and training.

While council supported a resolution that more specifically dealt with Bill 168, Papp suggested the township consider a way to move forward on getting staff involved with the project and receive training or resources from the campaign.

Information can be found at www.stop-family-violence.com or by contacting the project co-ordinator, Susan Speck, at iebpc@wpsn.ca or 905-356-3933 ext. 224.

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HOLIDAY MUSIC: Well-known Niagara choir to perform afternoon concert at Welland Centennial Secondary School Sunday, Dec. 6

Wood Singers set for season

JOE CSEH PelhamNEWS Photo

New members of the Robert Wood Singers prepare for their first performance The Music of the Season, taking place at Welland Centennial Secondary School on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. From left are David Iannandrea, John Snieder, Charlie Dufton, Angela Butt, Jennifer Scott, Kelly Gorjmerac, Darlene Oord at the piano and Robert Wood directing.

PelhamNEWS Staff

Over the past 40 years, many people have stated that they don't feel the Christmas spirit until after attending the annual Christmas performance of the Robert Wood Singers with the Wood Kids.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, singers will entertain the whole family with a Christmas concert titled Music of the Season.

The concert starts at 2:30 p.m. in the Dr. J. M. Ennis auditorium at Welland Centennial Secondary School.

The first half of the concert will reveal new arrangements of familiar popular tunes including *Christmas Time is Here* from *A Charlie Brown Christmas, Mistletoe and Holy, Mister Santa, Santa Baby*, and *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow*.

The singers are pleased to present Chrissie Greig, winner of the group's junior vocal solo scholarship at the Port Colborne Festival of the Arts last April.

The audience will get to meet the Charlebois family as they perform in a trio *Jing-A-Ling Holiday*.

The Wood Kids will round out part one of the concert with *Frosty Hand Five* and *Holly Jolly Christmas*.

The second half of the concert will feature 10 selections celebrating the birth of the Christmas baby, with a narration written by Rev. Steven Davis, minister of Central United Church, Port Colborne, and delivered by narrator Barbara Snopek.

Soloist Margaret Long will perform *Bethlehem Town*.

The singers will be backed by a three-piece ensemble, led by accompanist Darlene Ford.

Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for children 12 and younger.

Tickets are available at Arcuri's Cheese World in Welland, Rossman's Clothing in Port Colborne and at Hillside Sports and Leisure and The Log Cabin in Fonthill.

The concert will be sung in memory of Jim Dickout, a Robert Wood singer who died in October at age 42.

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■ **SHORTHILLS VILLA:** Dishing up thanks

Patience rewarded

For PelhamNEWS

Shorthills Villa Retirement Community thanked its residents and their families for their patience.

Owner Mike Hassani held an appreciation banquet to thank them for tolerating any inconvenience from six months of remodeling and the construction of an addition.

At the Friday evening dinner on Nov. 6, guests and residents filled the dining room, which was one of the areas renovated in the building on Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill.

Shorthills Villa marked Remembrance Day on Nov. 11 with a ceremony.

Veterans in the residence included David Wragg, Stanley Fenton and Bud Ker, who wore their Royal Canadian Legion jackets and medals.

Other residents brought in memorabilia and shared Remembrance stories.

Supplied photos

Left: Ed Stromgren, a resident of resident Shorthills Villa Retirement Community, sits with his granddaughters during an appreciation banquet at the residence.
Right: Enrichment co-ordinator Eleanor Cook organized a Remembrance Day service for the residents of Shorthills Villa Retirement Community.

sports

BASKETBALL: SOSSA championship goal at double A finals in Belleville

Crossley going for gold at finals

PelhamNEWS Staff

South Niagara is .667 from the floor when it comes to sending senior girls basketball teams to provincial championships.

Only Notre Dame, which represented Zone 3 at last week's Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association qualifying tournament, failed to advance to all-Ontario finals that tip off later this week in all four divisions.

Confederation travels to Cornwall, where the single A champion will be crowned, while runnerup E.L. Crossley and champion St. Francis will carry SOSSA's hope for a medal at the double A finals in Belleville.

South Niagara didn't have a triple A team this season.

Competing at the Ontario Federation of Secondary Schools Association championships will be new experience for a Confederation senior team coming off of back-to-back titles at the junior level.

However, it is a return trip for Crossley, which finished 11th out of 18 teams at last season's provincial championships in Thunder Bay and enters this week's final in Belleville ranked 15th out of 18.

"That's about where we should be since we're the second team for SOSSA," Cyclone head coach Mary Ann Lewis said Monday.

Crossley hopes to finish among the "top half of teams" at the provincial championships and will if the Cyclone play like they did against Dundas Parkside in the regional qualifer in Caledonia.

Crossley trailed by nine at the half but wound up winning by nine for an 18-point turnaround.

"That's the best I've seen them play all year. If we can do well in our first game, that should set the tone at OFSAA," Lewis said.

CROSS COUNTRY: St. Alex posts top-10 finishes in school-board meet

Staff Photo

Thirty-two runners from St. Alexander Catholic School's cross-country team recently qualified in the area meet held at St. Ann's Catholic School. The students then moved on to the Niagara Catholic board-wide meet at Queenston Heights to represent the school. Coached by Jill DeMars, Lorena Blouin, and Tracy Brioux, 12 students from the group placed in the top 10 in their divisions.

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■ **CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK:** Calgarian gets folksy with St. Alex students

MAGGIE RIOPELLE Staff Photo

Pelham library featured storyteller Wendy Berner of Calgary, pictured telling folk tales to St. Alexander Catholic School students.

Telling tales

MAGGIE RIOPELLE
PelhamNEWS Staff

Students sat in wonder as Wendy Berner continued an important tradition that bonds all walks of life together — storytelling.

Berner travelled from Calgary to tell folklore from many different cultures across Canada. Stories she has heard first hand or researched to share with others, in hopes those stories will live on as they are told.

"I do not read stories, I am a storyteller," she said. "I keep the oral tradition alive. I tell folk tales from around the world. Stories have been around for thousands of years. Stories are what bind us as together as human beings."

Last Friday, Berner picked a number of child-friendly stories from different cultures, genres, lengths and styles. She tells the tales in her own way, she said, to captivate her young or old audience. Friday, she shared those stories with students from St. Alexander Catholic School.

"It's not about acting ... it's about being responsive to the audience. I am true to myself and the story."

When telling a story, she said, it's better to tell it from the heart, which is a style she uses at museums, libraries, community halls, seniors homes, hospitals and high schools. Berner was a guest at Pelham library as part of TD Canadian Children's Book Week and was sponsored by Canadian Council for the Arts.

TD Canadian Children's Book Week is a national event celebrating Canadian children's books and the importance of reading. Every November, nearly 35,000 children, teens and adults and hundreds of schools, public libraries, bookstores and community centres host events as part of this major literary festival, according to the website www.bookweek.ca.

mriopelle@wellandtribune.ca

■pelhambrief

BIG BIKE TEAMS NEEDED

The Niagara office of the Heart and Stroke Foundation is recruiting teams to participate in Pelham's annual Big Bike event taking place at My Place Bar & Grill at Fonthill Shopping Centre on Thursday, May 6.

Local organizations are invited to help "Ride Over Heart Disease and Stroke" by getting a team of 29 people together to ride two kilometres on Canada's only 30-seat bike.

The ride is 15 minutes or less in length and is open to all fitness levels ages 14 and up. My Place Bar & Grill will provide complimentary food for participants after their ride. Each rider is asked to raise a minimum $50 to participate. High school students can earn volunteer hours.

To register, an organization needs someone who is willing to be the team captain. Promotional materials needed to recruit the 28 other riders will be provided by the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Aside from companies and service clubs, teams can also be made up of family, friends and neighbours.

Last year Pelham's Big Bike event raised more than $14,100. Since its community debut in 2001, Pelham's Big Bike event has raised $65,800.

Donor dollars have resulted in the placement of 20 lifesaving defibrillators in public spaces throughout Niagara. Currently the foundation is funding a Brock University study by Dr. Terry Wade examining the social determinants of hypertension in children.

Call Sara Belanger of the Niagara foundation office at 905-938-8800 to register.

— PelhamNEWS Staff

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PART TIME

LIBRARY CIRCULATION CLERK

Casual part-time position available at the Welland Public Library. Duties include clerical tasks related to library circulation functions, and collection maintenance. Must have Grade 12 and demonstrated computer competencies. Shift work, including evenings, Saturdays and Sundays. Apply in writing by Friday, November 27, 2009. Mrs. Barbara Murphy, Manager of Support Services, Welland Public Library, 50 The Boardwalk, Welland, ON L3B 6J1.

We thank all candidates for applying, but only those selected for interviews will be contacted. No phone calls please.

TAYLOR, Dr Lloyd Wesley - Peacefully at his home in Fonthill on Wednesday November 18, 2009. Dearly beloved husband of 56 years of Donna (Ransbury) Taylor, loving father of Dr. Connie Taylor-Haig and her husband Dr. Robert of St. Catharines, Mrs. Leslee Loftus and her husband Brian of London, Dr. Scott Taylor and his wife Sydney of Collingwood, and Todd Taylor and his wife Lori of Livonia, Michigan; Cherished grandfather of Jillian and Jonathan Haig, Brent and Megan Loftus, Palmer and Paige Taylor, and Wesley Taylor; Dear brother of Margaret Urbshott of Wiarton, Jack Taylor and his wife Janet of Toronto, and Jim Taylor and his wife Lynette of Lion's Head. Dr. Taylor was predeceased by four brothers, Harry, Roy, Ross, and Lynn, and one sister Lula. Raised in Lion's Head, Dr. Taylor practiced chiropractic in Welland for 56 years and was a long time member of the Welland Optimist Club and of Central United Church. He was highly respected and very active in the Ontario Chiropractic Association serving as President from 1977 - 1979. He received the chiropractic profession's highest award, the Chiropractor of the Year, in 1978. He served the association from the time of his election in 1969 until 2009 when he retired as the OCA's Queen's Park Representative. The Funeral Service was conducted by Reverend Chris Fickling at Central United Church, Welland on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. followed by burial in Fonthill Cemetery. Donations in memory of Dr. Taylor to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College; 6100 Leslie St. Toronto, ON, M2H 3J1 will be gratefully received with cards available at the **H.L. CUDNEY FUNERAL HOME**, 241 West Main Street, Welland. Online condolences available at www.cudneyfuneralhome.com

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COUNTRY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION CRAFT SALE
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PHILOSOPHERS' CAFÉ — "DOES PURE GIVING EXIST?"
Can there be cognizant giving that involves no personal, self-serving motives? Eli Courant debates David Goicoechea, Tuesday, Dec. 1., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free, but please register ahead.

AFGHANISTAN: THROUGH THE LENS OF A WAR CORRESPONDENT
Murray Brewster is the parliamentary defence reporter and senior war correspondent with The Canadian Press. He has spent more than eight months embedded with Canadian troops in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and will share his photos and experiences at the Pelham library. He has covered numerous national and foreign assignments and has won multiple journalism awards. Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. Cost $5. Please register ahead.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 4

WASSAIL PARTY presented by Fenwick United Church, 1050 Church St., 7:30 p.m., featuring Sweet Harmony, readings and carols. Come join us for a beautiful evening of song and food to start the advent season. Tickets: adults $10, children under 12 free. Tickets available at the door.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL fifth annual reading , this year at Ball's Falls Concervation Area. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to a resplendent scene with local wineries offering samples. Toute Sweet will share chocolate. Readers will be:
Steve Del Col, owner of Jack Store & Zooma Zooma Café in Jordan; Terrance Cox poet/lecturer at Brock University; Anna Olson, celebrity chef and cookbook author; Alan McLean, minister of Fenwick United Church; Robert Nunn, Brock University, Dickens' Authority. Community Care of West Niagara will be the recipient of the moneys raised. This is in keeping with Dickens' challenge to support local sponsored projects. They find the cash donation extremely useful in buying foods in bulk and assisting clients with urgent utility bills including heat. Tickets are $15, available in person or by calling 905-562-5235.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

CHORALIS CAMERATA, a Niagara-based chamber choir, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sinfonia present Handel's Messiah, Handel's best-loved and familiar masterpiece, perfect for the Christmas season. Featuring Laura Thomas, conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher; Lynne Honsberger, associate artistic director, accompanist with Chorus Niagara; soloists Charlotte Knight, Wendy Hatala-Foley, Jeff Boyd, James Mederios Concert is 2:30 p.m. at St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church in Fonthill. Tickets: adults $25, seniors $22, students $20, or $20 each for a group of 10 or more people. Phone: 905-354-4348.

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